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A processor and a computer readable medium external to the processor. The computer readable medium coupled to the processor by the bus and the computer readable medium to store instructions to implement microcode functions. Some other embodiments of the invention include a method of using firmware as microcode. The method comprises storing programmed code in firmware and executing the programmed code. The method further comprises updating one or more registers associated with a logic unit on the processor in response to the execution of the programmed code and controlling one or more functions of the logic unit on the processor based on a value stored in the register.

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